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scientious scholarship and genuine poetical gifts to his relish for the beauty and vigor of the hymnody of the early church. Otherwise, however much the translator may enjoy the performance of his pleasant task, his work is not likely to result in any permanent enrichment of the great treasure-house of song.

HENRY WILDER FOOTE.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE QUEST OF THE BEST. WILLIAM DE WITT HYDE. Thomas Y. Crowell Company. Pp. viii, 267. \$1.00.

In what the author describes as "Insights into Ethics," President Hyde sets before parents, teachers, and leaders of boys, some practical considerations as to the morals of youth. The book is the outcome of ethical discussions in class and in popular assemblies, and therefore is not a finished academic study; and the repeated plan of taking each thesis and applying it to twenty relations is a little cumbersome, and perhaps unfortunate. The result is not startlingly original; indeed, the author admits that its orthodoxy surprises himself. For example: natural badness is a stuff to be made over into goodness, of which it is the germ; artificial goodness falls short of the best; the best is the interest that fulfils all other interests in proportion to their worth; accepting anything less than the best is sin; and personal contact is the supreme mode of communicating moral power to youth.

In spite, however, of the familiar sound of these affirmations, the book should be of real and great value to the constituency it seeks. It gives the practical man an inkling of the larger principles of ethics which he often embodies unconsciously in his rule-of-thumb methods of conduct; and it sets before men who live in an age of moral extremes, the Aristotelian mean as the trembling equilibrium which ethics attains at the best. Not less valuable is the common-sense approach, the hopeful temper, and sympathetic mood of the book, and the hardy morality it inculcates. It should prove a most serviceable manual of practical use for the persons addressed in its pages.

GEORGE T. SMART.

NEWTON HIGHLANDS.